

C1
10. (Twice Amended) A method of identifying a compound that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

selecting, as a test compound, a compound that modulates the activity of PKC ϵ ,
administering said test compound to a test animal, and
determining whether anxiety is modulated in said test animal.

C2
29. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said test compound selectively inhibits the activity of PKC epsilon and said anxiety is reduced.

31. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said reduction of anxiety in a test animal is determined by a reduction in one or more symptom of anxiety selected from the group consisting of: decreased locomotor activity, decreased time in open areas, decreased exploratory behavior, and increased basal level of a stress hormone.

C3
32. (Amended) A method of identifying compounds that modulate anxiety, said method comprising:

measuring the activity of PKC epsilon in the presence and absence of a test compound, wherein said measuring is performed in other than an animal, and

determining whether the test compound modulates the activity of PKC epsilon, wherein test compounds that modulate the activity of PKC epsilon are identified as compounds for modulating anxiety.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said measuring is performed in an isolated cell or cell lysate.

C4
35. (Twice Amended) A method of identifying compounds that modulate anxiety, said method comprising:

measuring the activity of PKC epsilon in the presence and absence of a test compound, wherein said measuring is performed in other than an animal;

selecting a test compound that modulates the activity of PKC epsilon;

administering to a test animal the selected test compound that modulates the activity of PKC epsilon; and
determining whether the test animal's anxiety is modulated, wherein test compounds that modulate the animal's anxiety are identified as compounds for modulating anxiety.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said measuring is performed in an isolated cell or cell lysate.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said administering occurs under conditions in which the test animal, in the absence of the test compound, displays symptoms of anxiety.

39. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said determining step is performed after the animal is exposed to an anxiety-producing stimulus.

Please add the following new claims:

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said test compound selectively inhibits the activity of PKC epsilon and said anxiety is reduced.

35. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said test compound selectively inhibits the activity of PKC epsilon and said anxiety is reduced.

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The present invention as claimed in Claims 10, 29, 31-33 and 35-39, arises from the inventors' discovery that PKCε provides a suitable molecular target for screening